

REMARKS

The present communication is responsive to the Official Action mailed December 1, 2004. A one-month extension of the term to respond, up to and including April 1, 2005, is filed concurrently herewith.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 16-22 and 24. The Examiner, however, indicated that claims 2-5, 7-15 and 23 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. (Official Action, pg. 7.)

In order to advance prosecution of the application, applicants have cancelled claims 1, 6, 16-22 and 24. Applicants have also cancelled claims 25-27, which we were previously withdrawn in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed June 1, 2004. Applicants have amended claims 2, 7 and 23 to include all the limitations recited in their respective base claims, i.e., claims 1, 6 and 16, respectively. Claims 3-5 and 8-15 have also been amended to depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 2 and 7, respectively.

Applicants have also amended claims 2-5, 7-15 and 23, to improve their form and grammar in accordance with U.S. practice. Applicants respectfully submit that such amendments are cosmetic in nature and that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, allowance is earnestly solicited of claims 2-5, 7-15 and 23. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: March 29, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By


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